

What do you value the most about CESD?

- Our motto "Where Kids come first" also the dedication I see from those special individuals who see to it that kids DO come first.
- Over the last 2 years I have had 4 children of mine enrolled in CESD schools and as a parent I value CESD's commitment to guiding students into the 21st century, preparing them for life not only in post secondary education but as citizens in general terms as well. The emphasis on technology use and skills is an essential part of that.
- I value the people (students, staff, parents, community members) of CESD the most. We have fostered a culture of people who truly care about children/students as a whole person and we unite efforts to give them the best learning/life environments possible. We are collectively committed to do what is right for students; embracing and valuing our strong relationships which we use to make best choices for students. This level of synergy focused on every child is truly what makes CESD a great place for children to become strong, successful individuals in today's world.
- What I value most about Chinook's Edge is the willingness of CESD staff to communicate openly and work together to ensure that students are getting the most out of their education at Chinook's Edge. Prior to my children attending schools in Innisfail, they attended schools in Calgary. I often felt anonymous and uninformed when dealing with teachers and administrators at the CBE. It was a wonderful change to experience open lines of communication with CESD staff - this has given me and my children the sense that CESD staff are caring, and that they encourage students and parents to be active participants in the school environment. I truly believe that there are many CESD staff that are passionate about educating children.
- CESD is a forward thinking Division, which recognizes the uniqueness of each school environment. There is an openness, and willingness to move in the direction of new paradigms, and to remain on the cutting edge of implementation of new schools of thought. All members of the school community are valued.
- What I value the most about CESD is the people who I have been lucky enough to work with. I would include the Teachers, Administrators, Educational Assistants, Central Office staff, and especially the children. I value the relationships that I have made over the 16 years that I have worked in CESD and am impressed by the level of expertise, knowledge, skill, and competence of everyone that works in this organization. I believe that people in this division see the importance of relationships because they see the benefits for students, whether that relationship is directly with a student or a working relationship between professionals that has an effect on the students in our division.

- I value the face to face, rural, caring community, nature of our schools that has been preserved even while we are continually keeping up with educational best-practices and being technologically current.
- I am proud to be an employee of CESD as the focus of the division has always been “students first.” This has always been extremely important to me. As well, CESD focuses on building relationships, opportunity for professional growth/development, a shared vision and input from all stakeholders involved.
- In my short time in Central Alberta, I have seen positive strides towards creating a better all learning experience for my children.
- To answer the first question, I'd have to say that I value the fact that our division has a desire to stay current, and is willing to try new things without always citing reasons why things don't/won't work. Change is key, and I value the fact that we are willing to embrace change as a fact of life - in the approaches to technology, pedagogical practices, and how students learn, and are continually changing.
- What I value about CESD is the many opportunities to better ourselves and keep current. These then translate back to the student. I have only been fortunate enough to work in OES, and I value the fine group of talented and wonderful staff here. They are always willing to share their ideas and skills that they have accumulated through all CESD PD days. CESD gives our students the most up to date and knowledgeable teachers and EA's, so that success is most certain.
- I value the people I work with the most – it is important to have valued relationships to effectively be happy in your job and provide the expected performance to the leadership team.
Having a good leadership team who promotes employee empowerment, having fun and treating people the way you would want to be treated is an important factor in the performance of employees –I truly believe that we here at CESD have that leadership team and are very fortunate.
With this, I am happy to come to work on a day to day basis.
- What I value most about CESD is the futuristic, aggressive projects the School Division has undertaken recently. Partnering with Olds and Red Deer Colleges' in video conferencing has been an outstanding project that has not only been most beneficial to the CESD and its students but also to the communities the Division serves.

- Chinook's Edge School Division has many valuable aspects, and a few that stand out are:
 - Its view that all activities have the end of growing students and improving learning
 - Its ability to see the evolving to see the evolving big picture of education's role in society and assist its people through quality professional development (opportunities and support) to stay on the progressing edge of educational research; CESD develops leaders of students
 - Its understanding that effective and lasting change occurs from the inside out
- What I value about CESD...
 - Focus of education is people – tools are important but not the most important
 - Emphasis on professional development
 - Striving to implement new research, strategies and technologies

What do you think education will look like in the future?

- Technology,technology,technology!!!!
- The future of education in a rural school division, especially at the high school level, will continue to develop the distance education model so that the most rural students will gain more and more opportunities to learn under teachers who are more highly trained in specialized subjects. Whereas now there is a fair level of specialty focused teachers, in the future we will see less of, for example, an art teacher who also teaches English and some elective. Technology again will be a huge factor in providing distance education, not necessarily only from educators from within CESD, but also in pulling in opportunities for the best educators from Alberta, Canada, and beyond to impact and teach students in any/all of our schools.
- First, I believe that education will have to become a collaborative environment of all community service agencies (education, FCSS, Neighborhood Place, Rec Departments, Local/Provincial Government, Children's Services, Health Region, etc) collaborating to support the wellness and learning success of youth...uniting as action groups to surround youth with the supportive services necessary to stay healthy within a more complex world. Second, and parallel to the importance of the first, is this all-encompassing supportive learning environment putting in place supports/programs starting at birth to Kindergarten that guarantee successful literacy development of all young children, seeing this as the essential building blocks to a learning world that can then use the connectivity of the 21st Century world to create critical thinkers who are ready to compete in a global economy/global society.

- I believe that technology has had, and will continue to have, a tremendous impact on the future of K-12 education. I feel that there is currently very little information that children do not have access to. I believe that it is essential that CESD staff are proficient at using the technology that is available in the classroom, and that they teach students how to use these tools effectively and responsibly. It may be that down the road, teaching staff will have more of a facilitator / mentor role, as they guide students through acquiring the knowledge that is pertinent to their K-12 education.
- Educators are recognizing the influence that they have in the development of the whole child - cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Student driven learning allows the development of critical thinking skills, as well as societal skills that are needed for success. I believe that education will continue to explore these concepts, and incorporate new techniques that will further the development of students into life long learners and contributing society members.
- I think education in the future will focus on meeting a child where they are at and taking them where they can go. In the past, the focus had been on following a curriculum, however, recently there has been insight into determining where a child fits within that curriculum and how to adjust teaching to meet the child at their level (e.g., assessment for learning, differentiated instruction, etc.). I believe that Inspiring Education and Setting the Direction are leading education in Alberta in a positive direction.
- I think that education will be better able to be adapted to individual needs. I believe that doing so will develop individual strengths while facilitating the contributions of each student towards the greater community.
- I think building capacity and collaborating with students, parents and other stakeholders will assist in providing more equitable education and move towards distributed learning (asynchronous and synchronous). More opportunities/choices for students will increase student engagement and achievement. The role of an educator will also shift towards more of a coach or facilitator as we become learners as well as educators.
- I believe that with some adjustments in overall approach and philosophy, and by utilizing fresh input of senior students at Chinooks Edge, experienced educators who are willing to embrace the technological innovations available and a dash of commonsense, we are well poised to make Chinook's edge the envy of School Divisions nationwide.
- As for my view on what education will look like in the future, I believe that it will entirely depend on how individual schools approach the exchange of information. Schools that demand that their students relinquish their cell phones, that forbid Youtube, Facebook and Wikipedia, that focus on copious amounts of homework,

marks and test scores as evidence of learning, and continue to push the teacher to the front of the classroom will eventually get left behind. Information, or at best, the small details about how things work, is free. Anyone with a computer has access. Therefore, our current schooling model that focuses on memorizing details and facts is to pass Standardized Tests has become somewhat obsolete. Schools that excel into the future will think beyond the bounds of curriculum and tests, and use the vast amounts of free information, editors, contributors, and experts to collaborate and exchange information with. Rather than prescribe a "one size fits all" test that shows what a student knows about a very narrow segment of a curriculum that is limited to a certain age group, schools will need to not just accommodate the variety of ways that students will be acquiring learning, but encourage it. Teachers will truly become facilitators of knowledge, and will teach students HOW to learn - not WHAT to learn. Finland will continue to be miles ahead of us in terms of Pedagogical practices, and the best schools in the world will be modeled after the way that Finland teaches today. I don't have a crystal ball, but I don't need one to see that our current 'default' model of teacher must change in order to keep up with the very fact that information is free.

A second issue is the value that education will place on the people that run the technology. Currently, technology specialists are not valued enough in schools, both in the way they are paid and the number of individuals hired to keep up to the workload. The schools that will excel in the future will have several qualified, well-paid technicians to ensure that access to the internet and technology is as important as access to the school itself.

- With new technology it seems that students more and more are provided with the opportunity to learn in any situation/circumstance they are in – whether it be in a classroom or via online, video conferencing etc. and at a pace that makes them comfortable and suits them best.

I think that with technology now and what it may look like in the future students may take more initiative to enhance themselves earlier or during their high school years (CLC in some ways is already headed in this direction) or even prevent them from dropping out all together. With this ability could it possibly reduce the time they will have to spend in University and/or College to obtain a degree etc?

- I think education in the future will be very technological. As technology advances our classrooms will follow to keep the children on board. Children need to develop these skills in order to have a fighting chance in the real world. Laptops may replace notebooks and pencils. Work experience will become more necessary. The technology will begin right at the pre-k level and carry on up from there.
- I read somewhere and believe that 21st Century learning skills must be developed. We are now in the Technology Age but oral and written communication must be taught by accessing and analyzing information. Students must learn to manage daily skills in an electronic environment. Literacy is most critical in this age of technology. Video games must not be allowed to take over

a child's life. They must be encouraged to read and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

- Education changes so much from generation to generation, It is exciting to see the shifts come about and how they will directly make life changing differences for those student and staff involved. Though technology seems to be a main focus I really believe that there is going to be bigger changes in regards with character building and personal accountability. The increase in brain research alone will play a huge role in where education is going in the future. It should be an interesting journey.
- I believe education in the future will include the following aspects:
 - Students will build skills in creative and critical thinking, as well as problem solving, in the various aspects of their lives (academic, family, social) through global and local collaboration as teachers facilitate learning by guiding students through problems that relate to students' lives outside the classroom
- Education in the future...
 - Increasing use of technology – computers and iPads – greater independent learning
 - Critical thinking skills will be crucial to evaluate the ocean of information
 - Increasing need for schools to teach social skills and character education